

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 4-7, 9 and 10 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by **Davlin** (US 6,618,628). Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Davlin discloses a distributed input/output control system. The system includes a main controller 24 coupled to a plurality of I/O modules 26 via bus 28. Modules 26 are also referred to as slave controllers A and B. The main controller 24 communicates with slave controllers A and B using a suitable addressing convention. Davlin discloses that addresses may be “hardwired” in each module by “dip” or other switches, or each module may have a non-volatile memory or other storage that includes an address or identifier. (Col. 3, line 62 to col. 4, line 9.) The main controller “learns” addresses of the modules by interrogating the I/O modules. When the main controller operates in an interrogation mode, each I/O module provides its address or identifier in response to the interrogation.

Applicants respectfully submit that Davlin does not disclose:

said parent device has means for successively generating identification codes for the electronic device units, and the electronic device units have means for automatically setting the successively generated identification codes as own identification codes respectively in the order of series connection beginning from said parent device

as recited in claim 1.

Davlin discloses a main controller 24 and a plurality of I/O modules 26 coupled to the main controller 24. However, Davlin discloses that addresses or identifiers of the modules are either hardwired in the modules or are included in a non-volatile memory of the module. (Col. 3, lines 62-64.) Davlin also discloses that the main controller gets addresses directly from the modules by “interrogating” the I/O modules. (Col. 3, lines 64-67.) Davlin does not disclose that main controller 24 has a means for generating identification codes for modules 26 since the main controller 24 gets the addresses from the modules 26.

Furthermore, even assuming main controller 24 could generate identification codes for modules 26, as alleged by the Office Action, the modules do not have a means for automatically setting their identification codes since the identifiers are either hardwired or are manually set in the non-volatile memory of the modules 26.

The Office Action cites col. 2, line 33 to col. 3, line 9 and col. 4, lines 43-65 for disclosing this feature. (Office Action, page 3.) However, the passage starting at col. 2 merely describes, in general terms, a distributed redundant control system and methods of using the system, and that the modules are standard I/O modules. The passage at col. 4 merely describes features of the main controller 24, such as a display and a keypad for programming the main controller and the passage also describes communication between the main controller 24 and the host computer 20, which takes place via a bus 22. Neither of these passages provides a description of a system having a means for successively generating identification codes and a means for the modules to set their identification code based on the generated identification code.

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Attorney Docket No.: 052502
Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference, and claims 2, 3 and 8 are patentable by virtue of their dependence from claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 8 is hereby solicited.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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